

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 HA-05 AID-05
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /136 W
-----003912 030219Z /21

O 030211Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1119
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 01771

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, UNSC, PLO, IS, LE, FR
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: UN SPOKESMAN REPORTS ON
INCIDENTS INVOLVING FRENCH TROOPS WITH UNIFIL

1. UN SPOKESMAN HELD INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE AT
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8:00 PM ON MAY 2. HE INFORMED PRESS CORPS OF INCIDENTS
DESCRIBED BELOW AS REPORTED IN UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS
MESSAGE TO SYG WALDHEIM. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT WALDHEIM
WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE INCIDENTS AND WAS IN
URGENT CONTACT WITH PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT. ARAFAT HAS
GIVEN WALDHEIM ASSURANCES OF HIS COOPERATION. MEAN-
WHILE GENERAL ERSKINE IS RETURNING TO LEBANON IMMEDIATELY.

2. INCIDENTS OF MAY 2 WERE DESCRIBED BY SPOKESMAN
AS FOLLOWS:

- -- 1815 (ALL TIMES LOCAL) FRENCH VEHICLE AMBUSHED BY
- PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS, ABOUT THREE MILES FROM TYRE.
- ONE FRENCH SOLDIER WOUNDED. PLO REP WAS AT THE
- TIME IN FRENCH BARRACKS AT TYRE AND WENT WITH
- FRENCH CONTINGENT REP TO THE SCENE.
- -- 1830 PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS OPENED FIRE ON FRENCH
- BARRACKS AT TYRE, GENERAL EXCHANGE OF FIRE UNTIL
- ABOUT 1900 HOURS. SIX FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE
- WOUNDED AND ONE KILLED.
- -- 1920 FRENCH LIGHT ARMORED CAR REPORTED MISSING;
- UNTSO-OPERATED AMBULANCE DESPATCHED TO SEARCH
- FOR IT NORTH OF TYRE. UNTSO AMBULANCE DRIVER
- REPORTED MISSING AS WELL AS THREE FRENCH SOLDIERS
- IN ARMORED CAR.
- -- SLIGHTLY FRENCH CONTINGENT COMMANDER SALVANT
- ACCOMPANIED BY PLO REP DROVE IN PLO JEEP TO AREA
- WHERE ARMORED CAR REPORTED MISSING. SALVANT WAS
- FOLLOWED BY 2 FRENCH SOLDIERS IN UNIFIL JEEP.
- PLO JEEP WAS LATER FOUND RIDDLED WITH BULLETS.

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- SALVANT WAS WOUNDED (NOW IN HOSPITAL IN BEIRUT)
- AND UNIFIL JEEP WITH 2 SOLDIERS
- IS MISSING. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01771
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780187-0904
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780595/aaaaddjs.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 12f798a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2798408
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: UN SPOKESMAN REPORTS ON INCIDENTS INVOLVING FRENCH TROOPS WITH UNIFIL
TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, IS, LE, FR, UNSC, PLO, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12f798a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014